

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2004 - 0080**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF A  
SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW REDUCTION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS:**

1. A reduction of Sewer System Overflows (SSOs) will decrease risk to both human health and the environment;
2. The number and size of SSOs generally can be reduced, if not prevented, through the application of sound and appropriate operation, infrastructure maintenance, and management principles to wastewater collection systems;
3. To facilitate proper funding and management of collection systems, each collection system owner or operator, including state owned facilities, should develop and implement a facility-specific Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP). To be effective these SSMPs should include the applicable elements that provide proper and cost effective management, operation, and maintenance of collection systems, while taking into consideration risk management and cost benefit analysis;
4. Many local public agencies in California have already developed SSMPs and implemented measures to reduce SSOs, but others still require technical assistance and, in some cases, funding to accomplish this goal. In these cases, the development of a "model" SSMP would greatly benefit these agencies;
5. Certification of SSMPs by technically qualified and experienced persons may provide a useful and cost-effective alternative for ensuring that SSMPs are developed appropriately;
6. It is the Board's desire to gather information on the causes and sources of SSOs to determine the full extent of SSOs and consequent public health and/or environmental impacts occurring in the State;
7. Both uniform SSO reporting and also a centralized statewide electronic database is needed to collect information for the Board to effectively analyze SSOs;
8. Several of the Regional Boards are engaged in initiatives to address SSOs, with some Boards issuing waste discharge requirements or NPDES Permits to collection system owners/operators within their jurisdictions;
9. Many of the Regional Boards and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have taken a range of enforcement actions on SSOs; and
10. The State Board has convened a statewide Guidance Committee composed of representatives from the State Board staff, Regional Board staff, county environmental health departments, environmental groups, U.S. EPA, local public collection system owners, and other collection system experts, to advise the Board on the development of this collection system management and SSO reduction initiative and will continue to work with this Guidance Committee to implement this Resolution.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The State Water Board:

1. Set as their goal to improve water quality in California through a reduction in the number and volume of SSOs; and
2. Achieve reduction in SSOs by developing a “model” SSMP and by adhering to applicable industry standards; and
3. Explore a process that will allow for SSMPs to be tailored to individual facilities to effectively address various conditions such as geographic location and topography, age of system, size of system, design criteria of system, cost effectiveness, risk to the environment and public health, and the financial capability of the community; and
4. Evaluate the feasibility of a system for review and certification of SSMPs by technically qualified and experienced persons and develop such a system if found feasible and appropriate; and
5. Develop a statewide reporting system for SSOs, including consistent reporting thresholds, whereby SSOs that are of a reportable quantity will be reported into a centralized statewide database through an electronic reporting system that provides a comprehensive tracking system for SSOs; and
6. Continue to work with the SSO Guidance Committee to advise staff and the Board on the development and implementation of actions necessary to reduce SSOs; and
7. Require staff, in coordination with the SSO Guidance Committee, to develop a proposed Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program that will direct publicly owned collection systems to develop and implement SSMPs that incorporate appropriate funding and management practices, provide consistent Statewide reporting of SSOs, explore SSMP and operator certification, and propose appropriate enforcement guidelines, by November 2005, at which time, the Board will consider adopting the recommended implementation approach and schedule.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on November 18, 2004.

/s/

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Debbie Irvin  
Clerk to the Board